



MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Examination of Intelligence Community Performance re Soviet Military Presence in Cuba

22 JAN 1980

1. The recent episode of the Soviet Brigade in Cuba has raised questions about the manner of performance of the Intelligence Community which need to be carefully and thoroughly examined. Accordingly, I ask that you direct the Senior Review Panel to analyze and evaluate the performance of the entire Intelligence Community with respect to the Soviet military presence in Cuba during the period October 1962 to November 1979; derive therefrom the major lessons for the Community; and submit appropriate recommendations.

2. The Panel's examination will focus on the major factors affecting the timeliness, quality, relevance and utility of the intelligence provided to policymakers and other users. Specifically, their review should encompass, but not necessarily be limited to, such questions as:

a. Collection

(1) Were the necessary collection assets--COMINT, PHOTINT and HUMINT--on hand? Were they used in a consistent, coordinated and effective manner?

(2) How were these assets tasked at various periods? Were tasking instructions adequate?

(3) What priority of effort was assigned at various periods? Was this assigned priority over the longer time frame consistent with the strategic importance attached to the region?

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(4) How was the collected information screened and exploited? Was all such information made available to analysts throughout the Community? In what form, raw or processed? If the latter, what analytical assumptions guided the processing?

(5) Were collection decisions influenced by the degree of attention paid to Cuba by policymakers? Who did the tasking? On the basis of what considerations and direction? Were the latter interpreted differently by various agencies or entities within the Community?

b. Analysis

(1) Were analytical responsibilities within the Community adequately delineated? Were there any questions as to these responsibilities? Were they discharged within the Community in a consistent and effective manner?

(2) To what extent was identification of Soviet combat units retarded by:

- (a) Inadequacies of collection?
- (b) Lack of access to raw information?
- (c) Previous estimates and assumptions based on them?
- (d) The difficulty of imagining a mission for Soviet combat units in Cuba?
- (e) Low level of interest among policymakers?

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(f) Low level of interest generally
in the Intelligence Community?

(g) Low credibility of certain types
of information?

(h) Distrust of possible over-
interpretation by collectors?

(i) Small allocation of analytical
resources?

(j) Overlapping coverage by three
NIOs?

(3) How did these considerations express
themselves at different levels of NFAC and other
IC components?

3. In this work, the Senior Review Panel will be
assisted by Rear Admiral W.R.D. Robertson, USN-Retired,
who will oversee a small staff drawn from the Community
to support the Panel for this purpose. Each component
of the Community will also designate a knowledgeable,
experienced individual to serve as a point of contact
for this undertaking.

4. Your report should be submitted to me no later
than mid-April 1980.

/s/ Stansfield Turner

Stansfield Turner

cc: D/NFAC
D/DIA
D/INR (State)
D/NSA

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21 JAN 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.
Deputy Director for National Foreign
Assessment

SUBJECT: Post Mortem on the Soviet Brigade in Cuba

1. In accordance with our previous discussions, the Senior Review Panel is prepared to undertake the post mortem and for this purpose, a directive on the subject is attached for your approval and signature. In addition, the Panel needs the benefit of your personal guidance and I, therefore, urge that we meet with the Panel to discuss the matter.

2. Rear Admiral Dick Robertson, USN-Retired, has indicated his willingness to assist us on this endeavor. He can be available full time by the end of next week, but will be able to work for only 2-3 months. The target date for submission of the Panel report has been set with this in mind.

3. In order that we can get started without any further delay, I recommend you sign the directive. You may then wish to discuss the subject with the NFIB at an early date —

perhaps when you take up the subject of the Soviet brigade —

Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.

Attachment

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY
FILE # P-207

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